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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

LEARNING • BUILDING • INNOVATING



A MONTH ACROSS THREE INSTITUTIONS



August was an active month for LEAP Education Society, with major programmes and continuing engagements at

Aug 5th–7th & Aug–Nov 2026	Faculty Development Program & Innovation Design Thinking II	The National Institute of Engineering (NIE), Mysuru
Aug–Nov 2026	LP390 – Practicum for Innovative Engineering	Rajalakshmi Engineering College (REC), Chennai
Aug–Oct 2026 & Aug 17th–20th	LP320 – Object Detection Tool with OpenCV & LPB04 – Advanced Automation Bootcamp with ESP32	Dr. G. R. Damodaran College of Science, Coimbatore

LEAP — LEARNING BY DOING

Product Driven Learning (PDL) has been a catalyst in revolutionizing engineering education across the world, including successful programs at Massachusetts, USA, MIT, USA, IIT Madras and IIT Mandi. LEAP Education Society provides IIT-style and industry-oriented Product Driven Learning to engineering colleges through focused programmes from 1st Year to 4th Year Students.

All LEAP activities involve building products and learning by doing. LEAP enables engineering students to work on real-world projects during the semester in their colleges, where they work in multi-disciplinary teams to solve real problems of society and deliver working prototypes within given time and cost constraints.

At NIE, Mysuru: LEAP continued its Innovation Design Thinking for 2nd Year Students (IDT-2) activities across the South and North Campuses, bringing students from different department into structured laboratory-based learning.

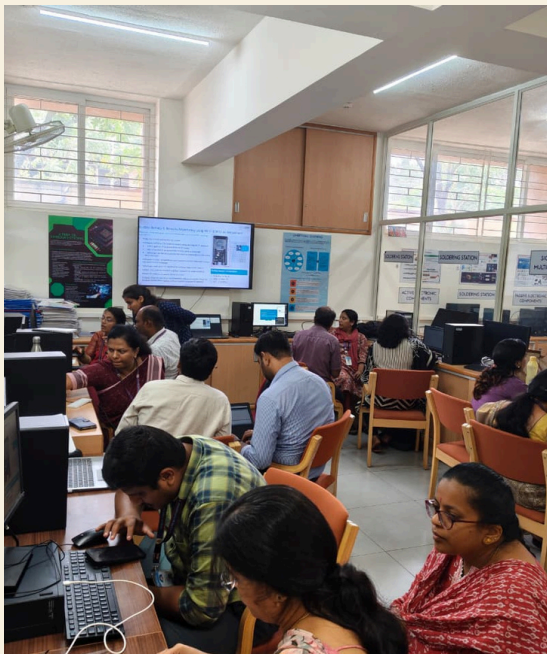
At REC, Chennai: The LP390 Practicum for Innovative Engineering continued for 150 third-year students, enabling them to develop the skills and capabilities to design and build scalable products.

At GRD, Coimbatore: LEAP commenced LP320 – Object Detection Tool with OpenCV for 30+ students from 6 August, alongside a four-day Advanced Automation with ESP32 Bootcamp conducted for 120 students from 17–20 August, providing an intensive hands-on experience in automation, computer vision, and embedded technology.

Each institution offered a different learning experience, but all three programmes were connected by the same LEAP philosophy — learning through practical experience and building through real-world application.

FROM FACULTY PREPARATION TO STUDENT PRACTICE, AUGUST AT NIE CONTINUED THE LEAP JOURNEY OF LEARNING THROUGH DOING.

The month began at the South Campus with a Faculty Development Programme for IDT-2, conducted from 5-7 August. The FDP had 16 participants and was led by Prof. Timothy A Gonsalves. The programme provided faculty members with an opportunity to engage with the IDT-2 approach and prepare for the practical learning sessions that followed.



"For a rewarding career that transforms India, an engineer needs to graduate with good experience of designing and building real products that solve needs of society."

—Timothy A Gonsalves



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING MYSURU | SOUTH & NORTH CAMPUS

Following the FDP, a series of IDT-2 laboratory sessions were conducted for ECE and Mechanical Engineering students on 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20 August. Students participated in practical sessions supported by NIE faculty and LEAP team members, creating an environment where engineering concepts could be explored through hands-on learning and direct implementation.

At the North Campus, the IDT-2 programme continued with laboratory sessions for CSE students on 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19 and 20 August. Students from different CSE sections took part in the sessions with the support of faculty members and the LEAP team, continuing the practical learning experience across the campus.

With activities taking place across both campuses and involving multiple engineering disciplines, August represented a strong continuation of LEAP's engagement with NIE. The combination of faculty development, laboratory learning and hands-on student activities reflected LEAP's continuing effort to bring practical, structured and product-oriented engineering learning into the academic environment.

AT REC, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES — UNDERSTAND, EXPLORE, AUTOMATE, DESIGN AND BUILD.



RAJALAKSHMI ENGINEERING COLLEGE, CHENNAI

During August, LEAP continued the LP390 Practicum for Innovative Engineering at Rajalakshmi Engineering College (REC), Chennai, for 150 third-year students. The programme was kicked off by Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves (Prof. TAG) on 23 June 2026 and is being delivered as a structured, long-term learning programme. The overall objective of LP390 is to enable students to develop practical engineering capabilities and progressively apply their knowledge towards designing and building scalable products.

As a foundation for the implementation of the LP390 programme, LEAP conducted a 3-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for 50 faculty members in May 2026. The FDP introduced faculty members to the LEAP pedagogy, with an emphasis on hands-on learning, practical engineering activities and product-oriented thinking. It helped faculty understand how engineering concepts can be translated into practical learning experiences and how students can be guided through an iterative process of exploration, experimentation and development. This faculty engagement provided the necessary foundation for effectively implementing the LP390 learning journey at REC.

During August, sessions were conducted every Tuesday for the 150 students as part of their practical learning journey. The sessions followed a progressive approach, beginning with understanding existing products and systems and gradually moving towards automation and engineering design. This approach enabled students to connect theoretical concepts with hands-on activities and develop a practical understanding of how engineering solutions are analysed, improved and developed.

The month began on 4 August with a Reverse Engineering Practical, giving students hands-on exposure to analysing and understanding existing products and systems. On 11 August, students progressed to Basics of Automation, where they explored fundamental automation concepts and their practical applications. This was followed by Advanced Automation on 18 August, introducing students to more advanced automation concepts and strengthening their practical engineering knowledge. The month concluded on 25 August with Design Methodology, focusing on structured approaches to engineering design and product development. Together, these sessions helped students progress from understanding existing systems to exploring automation and applying systematic design approaches, strengthening their capabilities towards the development of innovative and scalable products.



FOUR DAYS. 120 STUDENTS. ONE HANDS-ON JOURNEY INTO ADVANCED AUTOMATION WITH ESP32.

During August, LEAP Education Society conducted LP320 – Object Detection Tool with OpenCV on 6th August 2026, with 30 plus students participating in the session through online mode. The session introduced students to practical concepts in computer vision and object detection using OpenCV.



DR. G. R. DAMODARAN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, COIMBATORE

This was followed by the LPB04 – Advanced Automation with ESP32 Bootcamp, conducted at Dr. G. R. Damodaran College of Science, Coimbatore, from 17–20 August 2026. The four-day programme brought together 120 students for an intensive hands-on learning experience focused on advanced automation and ESP32 technology.

Both programmes were designed around LEAP's learning-by-doing approach, encouraging students to move beyond theoretical understanding and gain practical exposure through direct interaction with technology and real-world applications. The programmes were led by Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves, reflecting LEAP's product-oriented approach to engineering education

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

VISHWAKARMA AWARDS 2026–27

LEAP's founding partner Maker Bhavan Space is bringing the spirit of hardware innovation to students through the Vishwakarma Awards 2026–27, a six-month national hardware innovation challenge for STEM and Design students.

The application deadline is **7 September 2026**

Apply Here: <https://lnkd.in/d8W2t-Nb>

INSIDE LEAP EDUCATION SOCIETY

LEAP is expanding its team with senior educators, industry advisors and trainers to strengthen its programmes and support its growing engagement with institutions across Chennai and Mysore.

LEAP has also moved into new premises at the 4th Floor, D Block, IITM Research Park, relocating from its earlier space at 1st Floor, E Block, RTBI, IITM Research Park. The new space will support LEAP's expanding team, programme activities and institutional engagements.

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